MARVEL
5
LGY#806
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
SPENCER
OTTLEY
RATHBURN
MARTIN
R.OTTLEY

PETER PARKER was bitten by a radioactive spider and gained the proportional speed, strength and agility of a SPIDER, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "SPIDER-SENSE"! After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, Peter understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

The Amazing SPIDER-MAN

BACK TO BASICS Part Five

Peter Parker is Spider-Man no more! While visiting Empire State University, where Dr. Curt Connors offered Pete a chance to re-earn his doctorate, a mishap with Black Ant, Taskmaster, and the Isotope Genome Accelerator split Peter into one responsible Peter Parker and one powerful Spider-Man--who's reckless enough to endanger the city. Oh, and the bisection may eventually kill them both. Too bad! Pete could have used a break to enjoy his reunion with MJ and maybe get financially stable enough to kick out his third roommate, Fred Myers, A.K.A. the criminal Boomerang. But the clock is ticking: besides the problems Pete knows about, the Robot Master Mendel Stromm made a deal with a disembodied voice offering any help Stromm might require...to kill Spider-Man.

NICK SPENCER | writer RYAN OTTLEY | penciler
CLIFF RATHBURN (pp. 1-12) *and* RYAN OTTLEY (pp. 13-20) | inkers
LAURA MARTIN | colorist VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA | letterer
RYAN OTTLEY *and* LAURA MARTIN | cover artists

NICK BRADSHAW *and* MORRY HOLLOWELL | COSMIC GHOST RIDER VERSUS variant cover artists
DARYL MANDRYK | MARVEL'S SPIDER-MAN VIDEO GAME variant cover artist

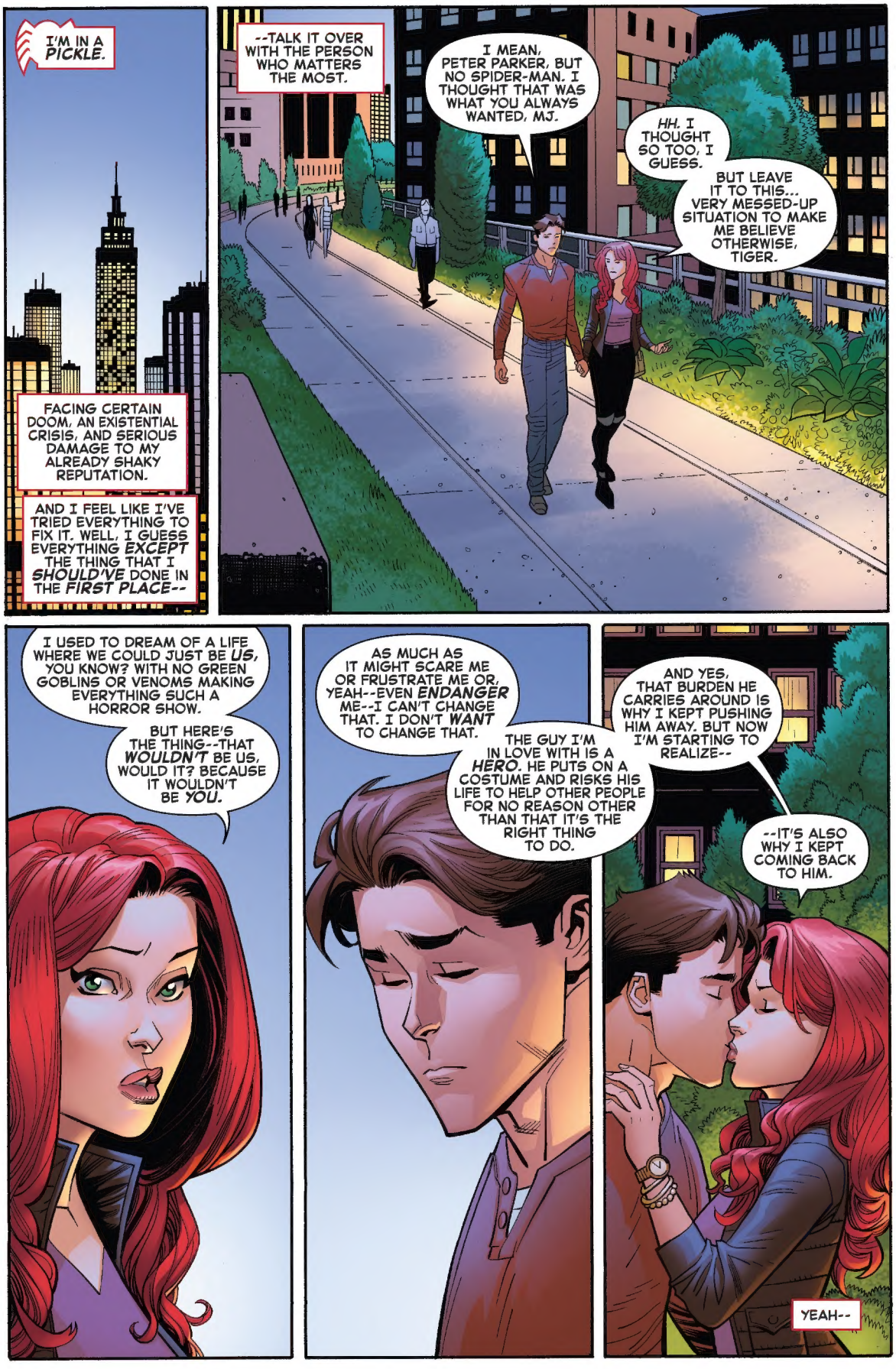
special thanks *to* ANTONIO RUIZ

ANTHONY GAMBINO | designer KATHLEEN WISNESKI | assistant editor NICK LOWE | editor

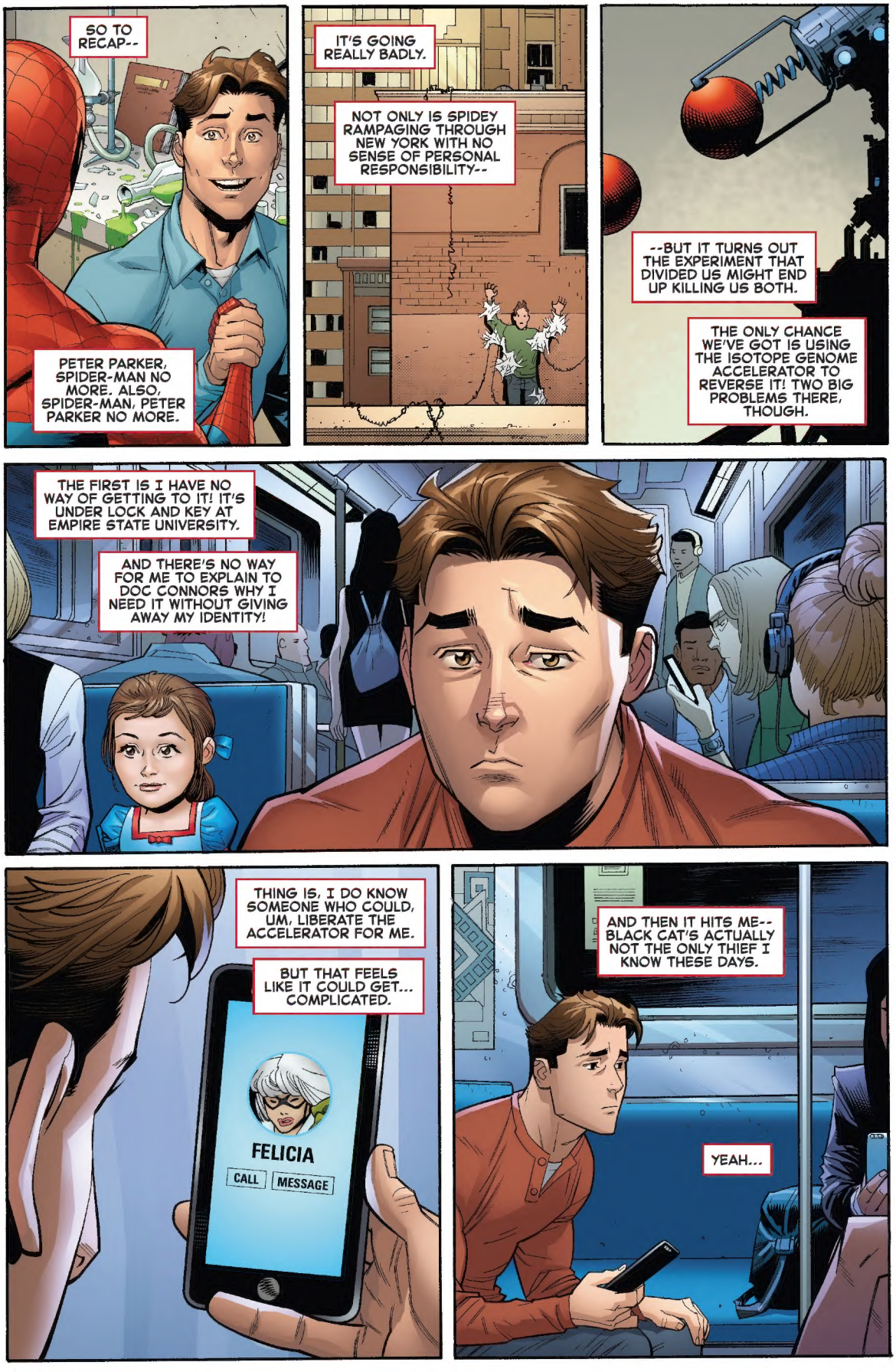
C.B. CEBULSKI | editor in chief JOE QUESADA | chief creative officer
DAN BUCKLEY | president ALAN FINE | executive producer

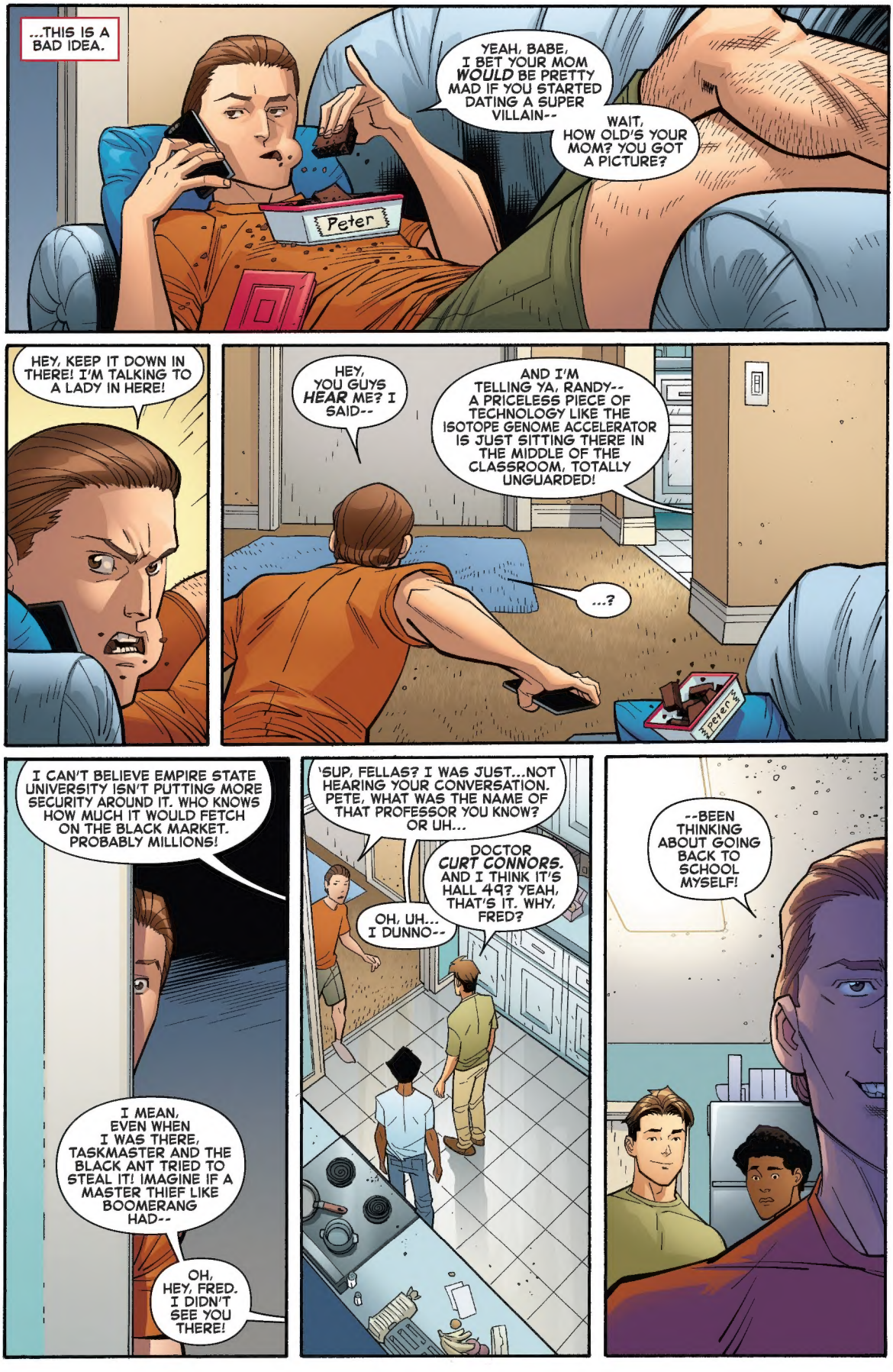
SPIDER-MAN
created by
STAN LEE
and
STEVE DITKO

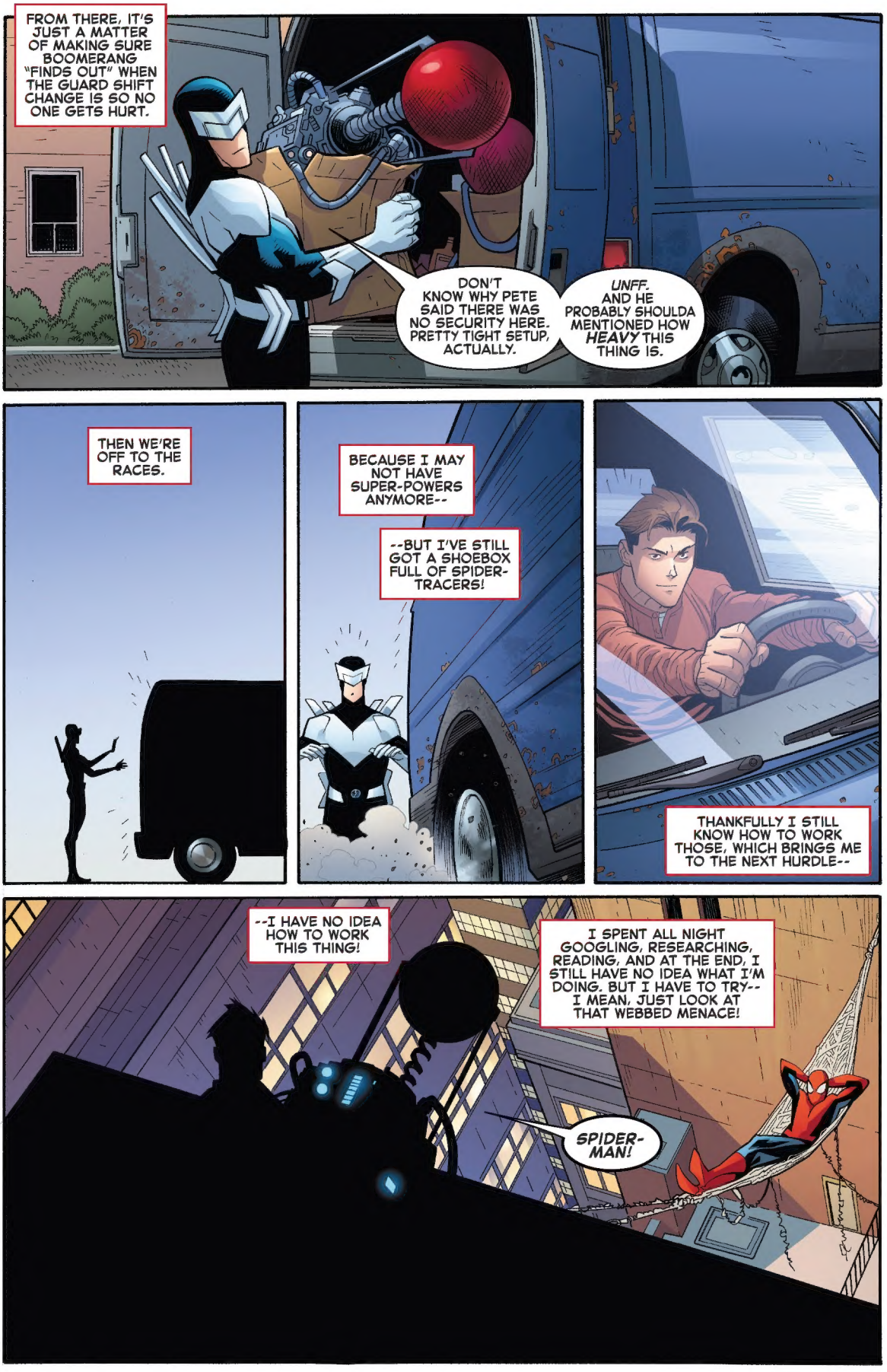
© 2018 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM


I'M IN A PICKLE.
FACING CERTAIN DOOM, AN EXISTENTIAL CRISIS, AND SERIOUS DAMAGE TO MY ALREADY SHAKY REPUTATION.
AND I FEEL LIKE I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING TO FIX IT. WELL, I GUESS EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE THING THAT I SHOULD'VE DONE IN THE FIRST PLACE--
--TALK IT OVER WITH THE PERSON WHO MATTERS THE MOST.
I MEAN, PETER PARKER, BUT NO SPIDER-MAN. I THOUGHT THAT WAS WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED, MJ.
HH. I THOUGHT SO TOO, I GUESS.
BUT LEAVE IT TO THIS... VERY MESSED-UP SITUATION TO MAKE ME BELIEVE OTHERWISE, TIGER.
I USED TO DREAM OF A LIFE WHERE WE COULD JUST BE US, YOU KNOW? WITH NO GREEN GOBLINS OR VENOMS MAKING EVERYTHING SUCH A HORROR SHOW.
BUT HERE'S THE THING--THAT WOULDN'T BE US, WOULD IT? BECAUSE IT WOULDN'T BE YOU.
AS MUCH AS IT MIGHT SCARE ME OR FRUSTRATE ME OR, YEAH--EVEN ENDANGER ME--I CAN'T CHANGE THAT. I DON'T WANT TO CHANGE THAT.
THE GUY I'M IN LOVE WITH IS A HERO. HE PUTS ON A COSTUME AND RISKS HIS LIFE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE FOR NO REASON OTHER THAN THAT IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
AND YES, THAT BURDEN HE CARRIES AROUND IS WHY I KEPT PUSHING HIM AWAY. BUT NOW I'M STARTING TO REALIZE--
--IT'S ALSO WHY I KEPT COMING BACK TO HIM.
YEAH--

--THAT FEELS LIKE A GOOD NOTE TO *END* ON.

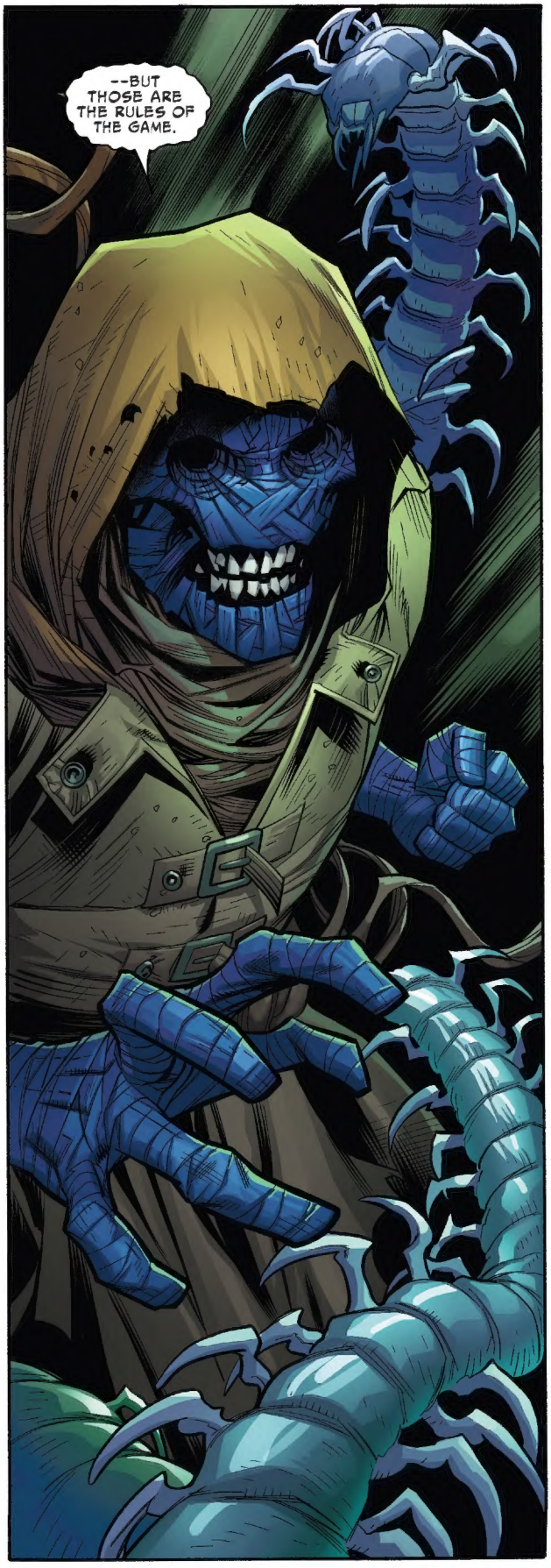

SO TO RECAP--
PETER PARKER, SPIDER-MAN NO MORE. ALSO, SPIDER-MAN, PETER PARKER NO MORE.
IT'S GOING REALLY BADLY.
NOT ONLY IS SPIDEY RAMPAGING THROUGH NEW YORK WITH NO SENSE OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY--
--BUT IT TURNS OUT THE EXPERIMENT THAT DIVIDED US MIGHT END UP KILLING US BOTH.
THE ONLY CHANCE WE'VE GOT IS USING THE ISOTOPE GENOME ACCELERATOR TO REVERSE IT! TWO BIG PROBLEMS THERE, THOUGH.
THE FIRST IS I HAVE NO WAY OF GETTING TO IT! IT'S UNDER LOCK AND KEY AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.
AND THERE'S NO WAY FOR ME TO EXPLAIN TO DOC CONNORS WHY I NEED IT WITHOUT GIVING AWAY MY IDENTITY!
THING IS, I DO KNOW SOMEONE WHO COULD, UM, LIBERATE THE ACCELERATOR FOR ME.
BUT THAT FEELS LIKE IT COULD GET... COMPLICATED.
FELICIA
CALL
MESSAGE
AND THEN IT HITS ME-- BLACK CAT'S ACTUALLY NOT THE ONLY THIEF I KNOW THESE DAYS.
YEAH...


...THIS IS A BAD IDEA.
YEAH, BABE, I BET YOUR MOM *WOULD* BE PRETTY MAD IF YOU STARTED DATING A SUPER VILLAIN--
WAIT, HOW OLD'S YOUR MOM? YOU GOT A PICTURE?
Peter
HEY, KEEP IT DOWN IN THERE! I'M TALKING TO A LADY IN HERE!
HEY, YOU GUYS *HEAR* ME? I SAID--
AND I'M TELLING YA, RANDY-- A PRICELESS PIECE OF TECHNOLOGY LIKE THE ISOTOPE GENOME ACCELERATOR IS JUST SITTING THERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CLASSROOM, TOTALLY UNGUARDED!
...?
Peter
I CAN'T BELIEVE EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY ISN'T PUTTING MORE SECURITY AROUND IT. WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH IT WOULD FETCH ON THE BLACK MARKET. PROBABLY MILLIONS!
I MEAN, EVEN WHEN I WAS THERE, TASKMASTER AND THE BLACK ANT TRIED TO STEAL IT! IMAGINE IF A MASTER THIEF LIKE BOOMERANG HAD--
OH, HEY, FRED. I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE!
'SUP, FELLAS? I WAS JUST...NOT HEARING YOUR CONVERSATION. PETE, WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THAT PROFESSOR YOU KNOW? OR UH...
DOCTOR *CURT CONNORS.* AND I THINK IT'S HALL 49? YEAH, THAT'S IT. WHY, FRED?
OH, UH... I DUNNO--
--BEEN THINKING ABOUT GOING BACK TO SCHOOL MYSELF!


FROM THERE, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF MAKING SURE BOOMERANG "FINDS OUT" WHEN THE GUARD SHIFT CHANGE IS SO NO ONE GETS HURT.
DON'T KNOW WHY PETE SAID THERE WAS NO SECURITY HERE. PRETTY TIGHT SETUP, ACTUALLY.
UNFF. AND HE PROBABLY SHOULDA MENTIONED HOW ***HEAVY*** THIS THING IS.
THEN WE'RE OFF TO THE RACES.
BECAUSE I MAY NOT HAVE SUPER-POWERS ANYMORE--
--BUT I'VE STILL GOT A SHOEBOX FULL OF SPIDER-TRACERS!
THANKFULLY I STILL KNOW HOW TO WORK THOSE, WHICH BRINGS ME TO THE NEXT HURDLE--
--I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO WORK THIS THING!
I SPENT ALL NIGHT GOOGLING, RESEARCHING, READING, AND AT THE END, I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING. BUT I HAVE TO TRY-- I MEAN, JUST LOOK AT THAT WEBBED MENACE!
SPIDER-MAN!

THIS ENDS NOW!
OH, UH, HEY, PETE. WHAT'S UP?
DID YOU NOT HEAR ME? I SAID THIS ENDS NOW!
OH, RIGHT, SORRY, GUESS I WAS A LITTLE DISTRACTED.
BY WHAT?
OH, NOTHING--
--JUST THE GIANT ROBOT ARMY.
I GUESS IT'S LIKE THE SAYING GOES-- WHILE YOU'RE MAKING PLANS, THAT'S WHEN LIFE HAPPENS.
ALSO WHEN ARMIES OF TRI-SENTINELS ATTACK, APPARENTLY.

HA HA HA HA!
IT'S HAPPENING! IT'S ALL FINALLY, REALLY HAPPENING!
GUESS I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH PLANS.
YOU SEE, NORMAN?! THAT'S HOW YOU DESTROY A CITY AND DEFEAT SPIDER-MAN! I TOLD YOU ALL THAT HAIR CARE WAS A DISTRACTION!
YOU DID IT, MENDEL. YOU FINALLY SHOWED HIM--I HOPE IT WAS WORTH IT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WORTH IT"? OF COURSE IT WAS--
THAT'S GOOD. YOU KNOW, A LOT OF TIMES PEOPLE MAKE DEALS WITH ME, THEY END UP HAVING SECOND THOUGHTS.
DEAL? WHAT DEAL?
OH, COME ON, MENDEL-- YOU REALLY THINK ALL THAT TECH SUPPORT BACK THERE CAME FREE?
WHAT THE DEVIL ARE YOU DOING?! UNHAND ME AT ONCE!
NO, WAIT-- PLEASE--
AAAIIIEEE!
I WISH I COULD, MENDEL, I REALLY DO--

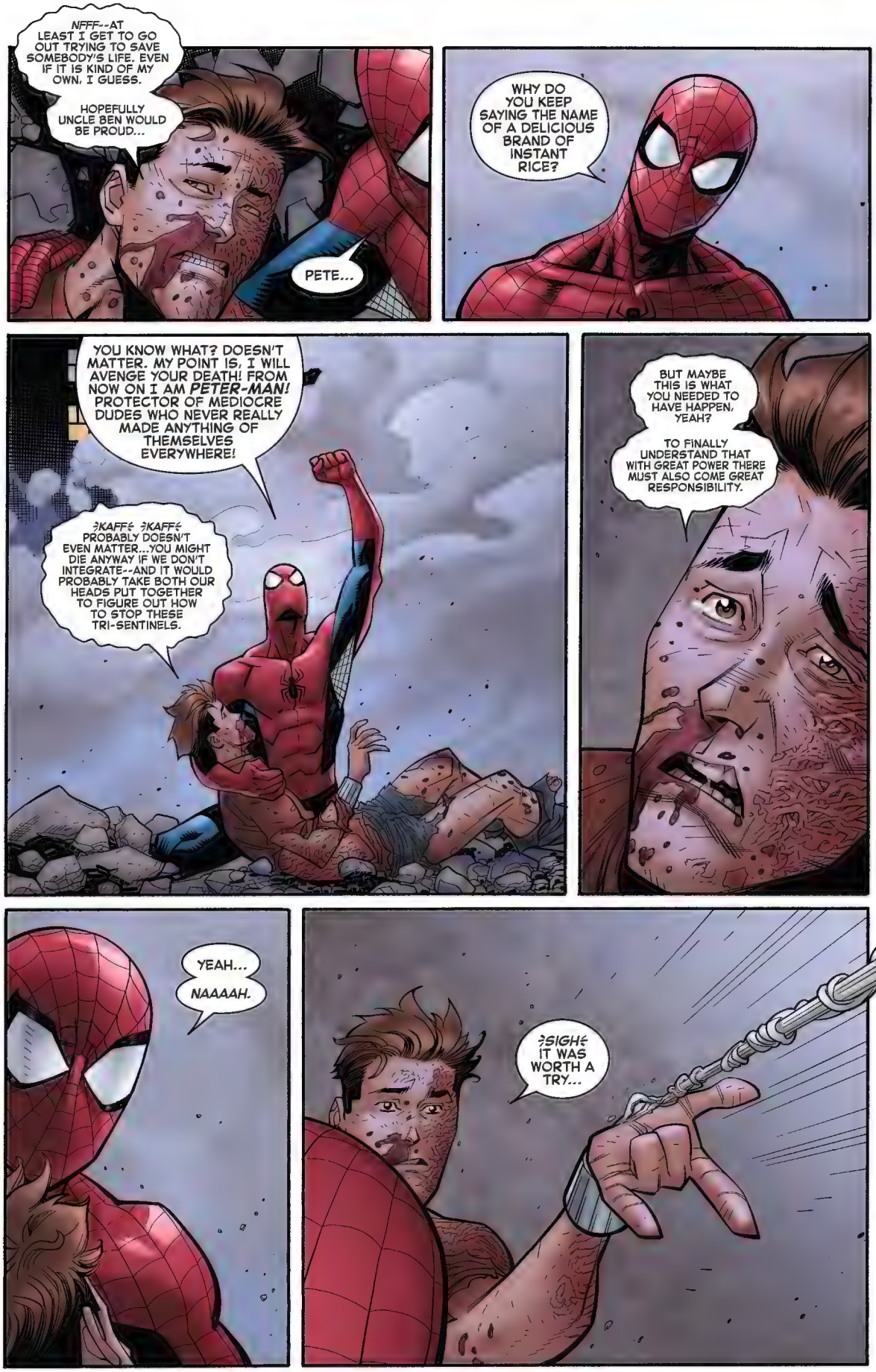

--BUT THOSE ARE THE RULES OF THE GAME.

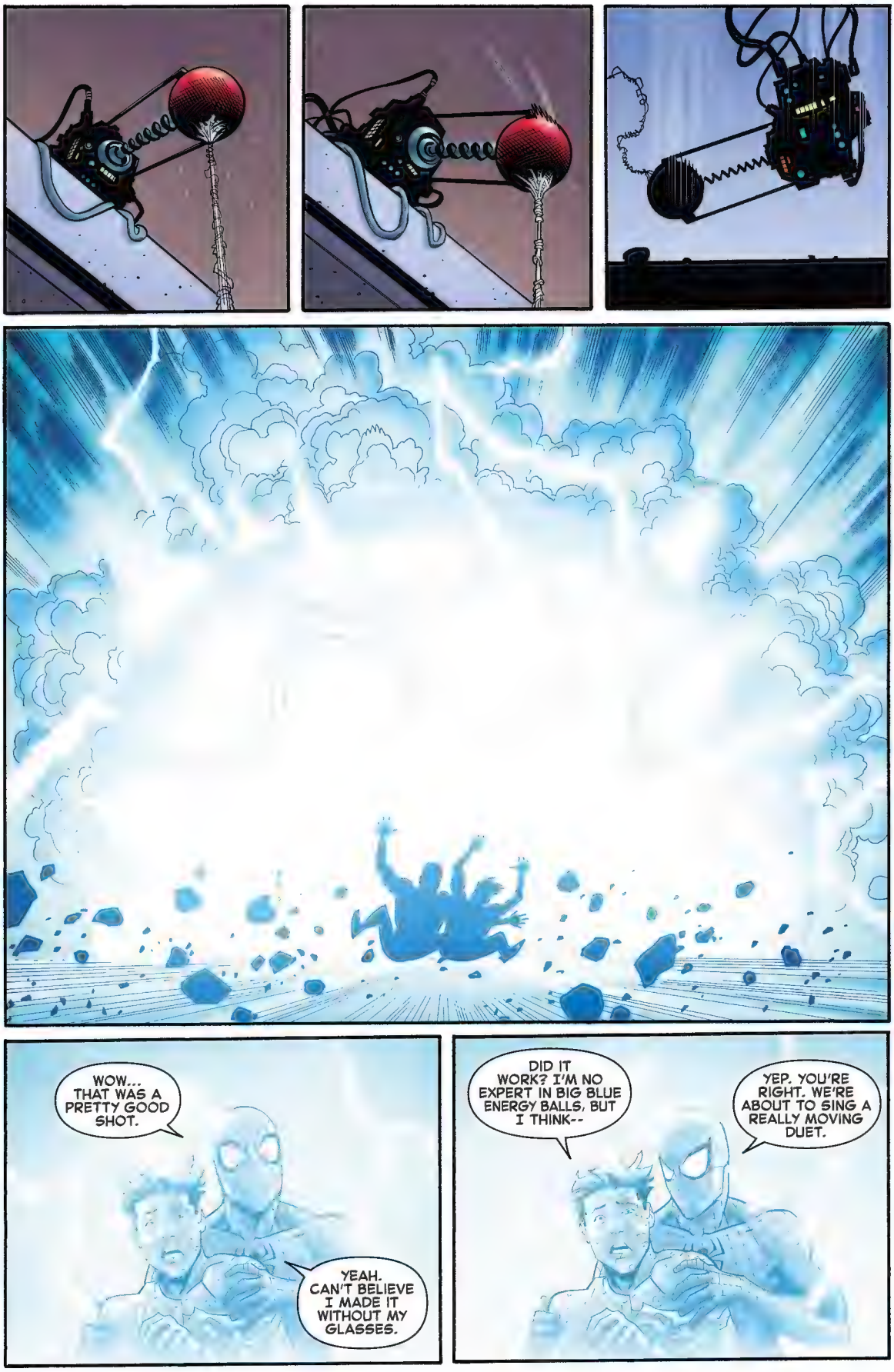
HUFF ARE YOU JUST RUNNING AWAY? THOSE TRI-SENTINELS ARE DESTROYING THE CITY! PEOPLE *NEED* YOU--
SHORT-SIGHTED, PETE. SURE, I COULD GET MYSELF KILLED TRYING TO SAVE A FEW TOURISTS NOW...

...OR I COULD *RUN AWAY* AND SAVE COUNTLESS TOURISTS IN YEARS TO COME FROM, YOU KNOW...LESS SCARY THINGS. LIKE THE DANGERS OF *GINGIVITIS!*
IT CAN EVENTUALLY LEAD TO HEART DISEASE, YOU KNOW!
THIS IDIOT'S SO BUSY TRYING TO SAVE HIS *OWN* BEHIND--

--HE'S NOT EVEN PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT'S *BEHIND* HIM!
SPIDEY--

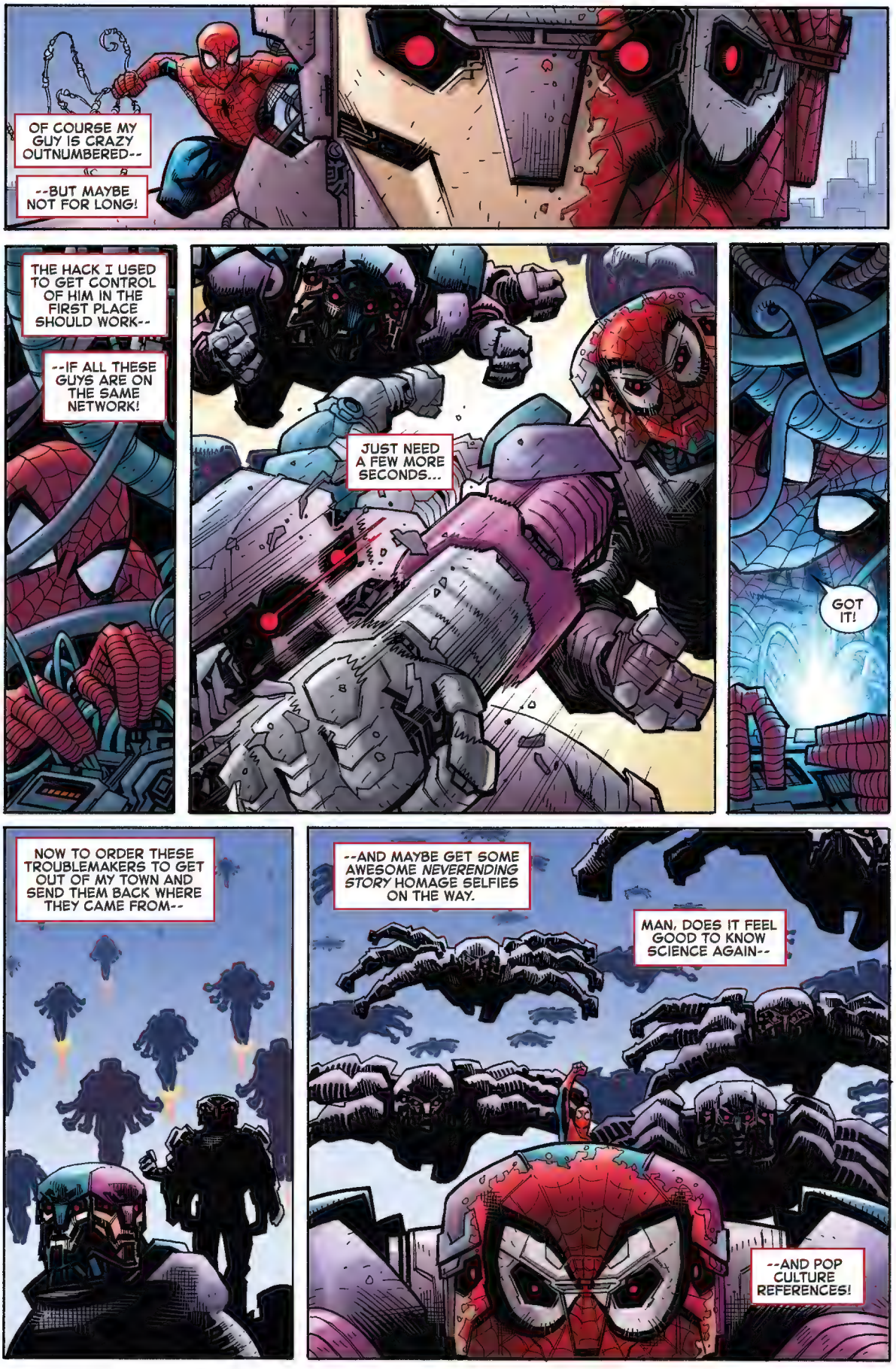
LOOK OUT!
WELL, LIKE I SAID BEFORE--
--GOOD NOTE TO END ON.
ME!
OH, MAN-- I'M SO SORRY! THAT BLAST CAME TOTALLY OUT OF NOWHERE.
Y-YEAH. DON'T REALLY GET HOW YOUR SPIDER-SENSE DIDN'T WARN YOU...
RIGHT. THAT. WELL, SPIDER-SENSE TURNED OUT TO BE KIND OF A DRAG.
IT'S LIKE, YOU'RE TRYING TO GET TO THE END OF A *WESTWORLD* EPISODE, AND THINGS ARE GETTING REALLY CRAZY AND YOU CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HOW THEY MADE IT UP AS THEY WENT ALONG THIS TIME--
AND THEN, *AGH! SPIDER-SENSE.* SOMEBODY'S ROBBING THE BANK YOU JUST BUILT A WEB HAMMOCK OVEROVER, AND THEY'RE SHOOTING IN YOUR DIRECTION. "DANGER, WILL ROBINSPIDER." GETS ANNOYING. SO I TURNED IT OFF.
Y-YOU CAN TURN IT OFF?
SURE. AS LONG AS YOU DON'T MIND THE OCCASIONAL SHARP, BLINDING PAIN IN YOUR BRAIN.

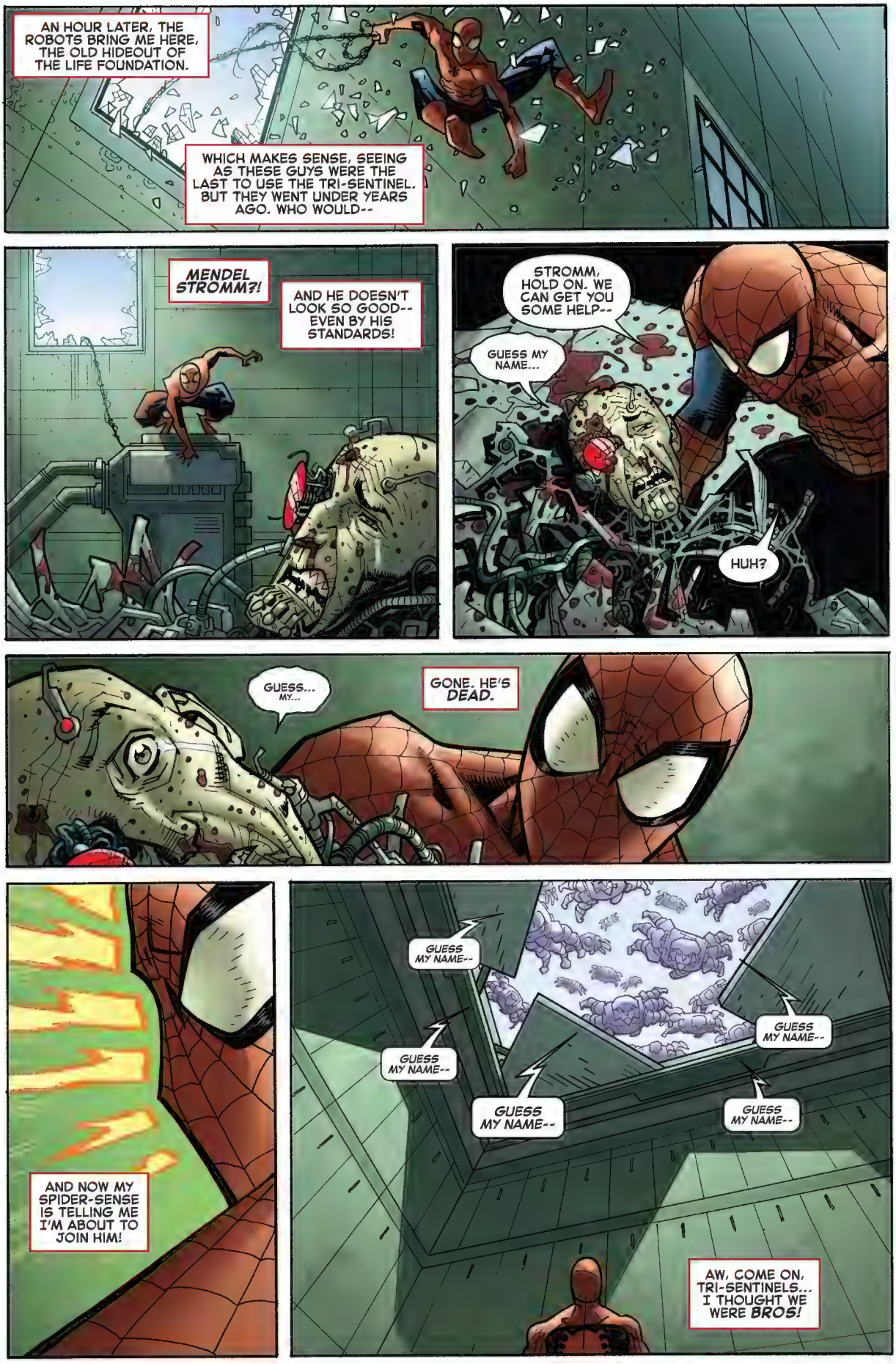

NFFF--AT LEAST I GET TO GO OUT TRYING TO SAVE SOMEBODY'S LIFE. EVEN IF IT IS KIND OF MY OWN, I GUESS.
HOPEFULLY UNCLE BEN WOULD BE PROUD...
PETE...
WHY DO YOU KEEP SAYING THE NAME OF A DELICIOUS BRAND OF INSTANT RICE?
YOU KNOW WHAT? DOESN'T MATTER. MY POINT IS, I WILL AVENGE YOUR DEATH! FROM NOW ON I AM PETER-MAN! PROTECTOR OF MEDIOCRE DUDES WHO NEVER REALLY MADE ANYTHING OF THEMSELVES EVERYWHERE!
KAFF KAFF PROBABLY DOESN'T EVEN MATTER...YOU MIGHT DIE ANYWAY IF WE DON'T INTEGRATE--AND IT WOULD PROBABLY TAKE BOTH OUR HEADS PUT TOGETHER TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO STOP THESE TRI-SENTINELS.
BUT MAYBE THIS IS WHAT YOU NEEDED TO HAVE HAPPEN, YEAH?
TO FINALLY UNDERSTAND THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.
YEAH...
NAAAAH.
SIGH IT WAS WORTH A TRY...


WOW... THAT WAS A PRETTY GOOD SHOT.
YEAH. CAN'T BELIEVE I MADE IT WITHOUT MY GLASSES.
DID IT WORK? I'M NO EXPERT IN BIG BLUE ENERGY BALLS, BUT I THINK--
YEP. YOU'RE RIGHT. WE'RE ABOUT TO SING A REALLY MOVING DUET.

MAN, YOU NEVER GET HOW ANNOYING THE JOKES REALLY ARE UNTIL YOU'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THEM.
AW, COME ON, PETE.
LOOK, I GET IT. YOU'RE ALL HAUNTED BY WHATEVER HAPPENED TO US IN THE PAST, AND YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE NONE OF THAT HAPPENS TO ANYONE ELSE. IT'S REAL HEAVY AND DEPRESSING.
AND MAYBE I FORGOT SOME OF THAT STUFF BECAUSE WE KINDA *WANNA* FORGET IT SOMETIMES...
BUT HEY, ON MY SIDE-- MAYBE YOU COULD STAND TO, I DUNNO, *ENJOY* YOURSELF ONCE IN A WHILE?
I MEAN, COME ON, DUDE, WE CAN *CLIMB WALLS!* HOW MANY TIMES DID WE DREAM ABOUT BEING ABLE TO DO THAT AS A KID? OKAY, THE ANSWER IS NONE--BUT STILL, IT TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY COOL!
MY POINT IS JUST-- I'M *HALF* OF YOU. BUT ARE YOU LIKE ME *HALF THE TIME?* MAYBE DON'T PUSH US DOWN SO MUCH IN FAVOR OF *EMO PETE AND HIS SAD PARADE.* WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
TENS OF MILLIONS IN PROPERTY DAMAGE?
YEAH, BUT COME ON, EVEN *YOU* HAVE TO ADMIT--
--THE GIANT ROBOT WAS *AWESOME.*

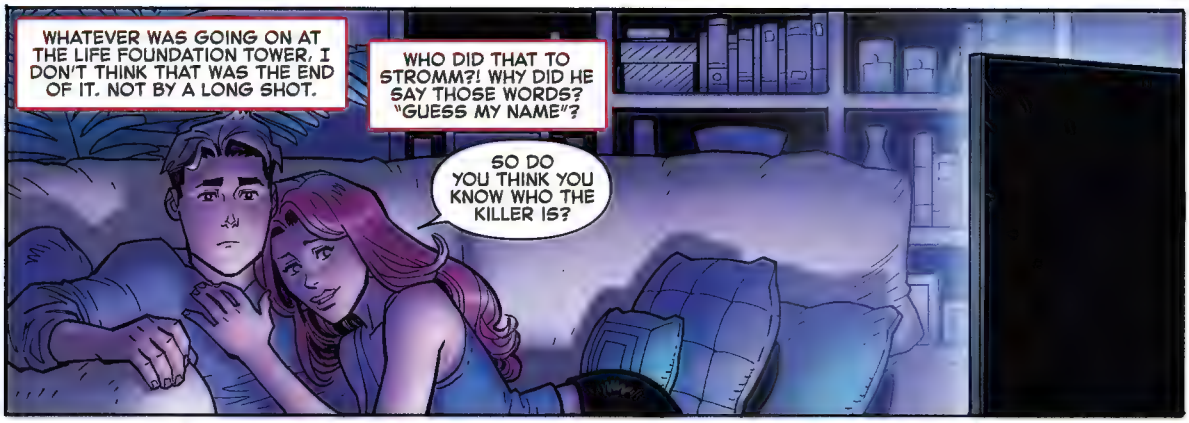
I'M BACK!
I CAN ALREADY FEEL MYSELF TRYING TO BE FUNNY AGAIN!
AND THERE'S THAT OVERWHELMING SENSE OF GUILT AND REGRET I MISSED SO MUCH!
UNFORTUNATELY, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT THIS INVASION.
I MEAN, ONE TRI-SENTINEL IS IMPOSSIBLE ENOUGH TO DEAL WITH--WAIT--
THAT'S IT!
TO ME, MY SPIDER-BOT!
OKAY, I WAS RIGHT--
--THE PART WITH THE GIANT ROBOT WAS AWESOME!

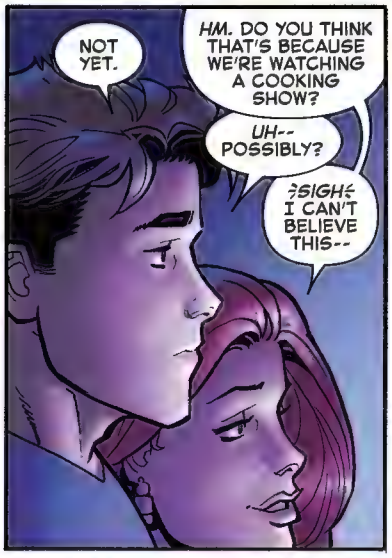

OF COURSE MY GUY IS CRAZY OUTNUMBERED--
--BUT MAYBE NOT FOR LONG!
THE HACK I USED TO GET CONTROL OF HIM IN THE FIRST PLACE SHOULD WORK--
--IF ALL THESE GUYS ARE ON THE SAME NETWORK!
JUST NEED A FEW MORE SECONDS...
GOT IT!
NOW TO ORDER THESE TROUBLEMAKERS TO GET OUT OF MY TOWN AND SEND THEM BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM--
--AND MAYBE GET SOME AWESOME *NEVERENDING STORY* HOMAGE SELFIES ON THE WAY.
MAN, DOES IT FEEL GOOD TO KNOW SCIENCE AGAIN--
--AND POP CULTURE REFERENCES!

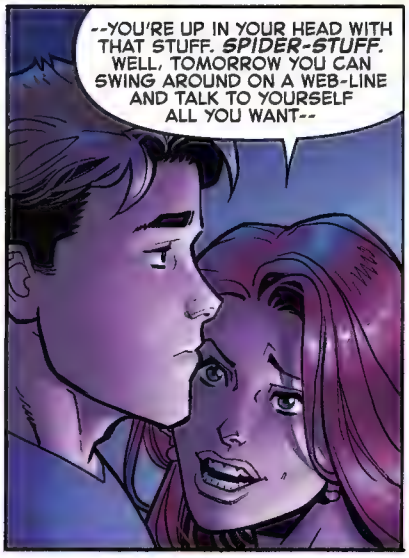

AN HOUR LATER, THE ROBOTS BRING ME HERE, THE OLD HIDEOUT OF THE LIFE FOUNDATION.
WHICH MAKES SENSE, SEEING AS THESE GUYS WERE THE LAST TO USE THE TRI-SENTINEL. BUT THEY WENT UNDER YEARS AGO. WHO WOULD--
MENDEL STROMM?!
AND HE DOESN'T LOOK SO GOOD-- EVEN BY HIS STANDARDS!
STROMM, HOLD ON. WE CAN GET YOU SOME HELP--
GUESS MY NAME...
HUH?
GUESS... MY...
GONE. HE'S DEAD.
AND NOW MY SPIDER-SENSE IS TELLING ME I'M ABOUT TO JOIN HIM!
GUESS MY NAME--
GUESS MY NAME--
GUESS MY NAME--
GUESS MY NAME--
GUESS MY NAME--
AW, COME ON, TRI-SENTINELS... I THOUGHT WE WERE BROS!

GUESS MY NAME--
GUESS MY NAME--
GUESS MY NAME--
GUESS MY NAME--

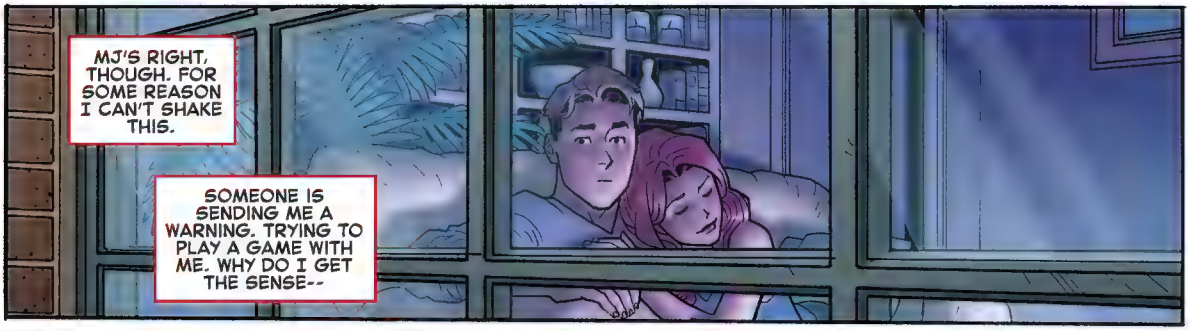
OKAY--
--WHAT JUST HAPPENED?


WHATEVER WAS GOING ON AT THE LIFE FOUNDATION TOWER, I DON'T THINK THAT WAS THE END OF IT. NOT BY A LONG SHOT.
WHO DID THAT TO STROMM?! WHY DID HE SAY THOSE WORDS? "GUESS MY NAME"?
SO DO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO THE KILLER IS?

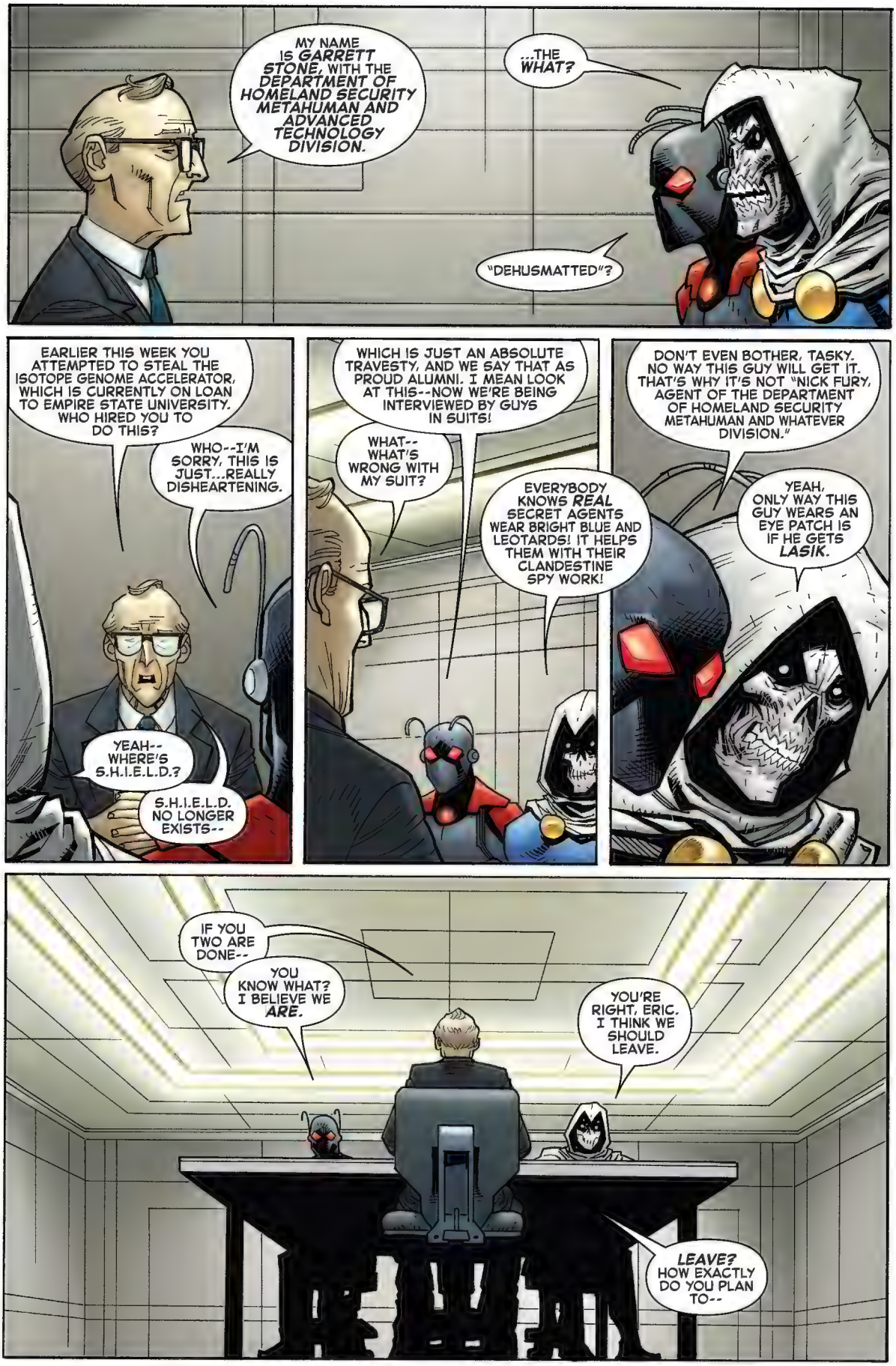

NOT YET.
HM. DO YOU THINK THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE WATCHING A COOKING SHOW?
UH-- POSSIBLY?
SIGH I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS--


--YOU'RE UP IN YOUR HEAD WITH THAT STUFF. SPIDER-STUFF. WELL, TOMORROW YOU CAN SWING AROUND ON A WEB-LINE AND TALK TO YOURSELF ALL YOU WANT--

TONIGHT, YOU'RE ALL MINE, TIGER.


MJ'S RIGHT, THOUGH. FOR SOME REASON I CAN'T SHAKE THIS.
SOMEONE IS SENDING ME A WARNING. TRYING TO PLAY A GAME WITH ME. WHY DO I GET THE SENSE--

--MY TROUBLES ARE JUST STARTING?
TASKMASTER AND THE BLACK ANT. FUGITIVE MERCENARIES. FORMER HYDRA LOYALISTS.
EH, NEVER REALLY THAT LOYAL, BUT SURE.
I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS FOR YOU.


MY NAME IS GARRETT STONE, WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY METAHUMAN AND ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY DIVISION.
...THE WHAT?
"DEHUSMATTED"?
EARLIER THIS WEEK YOU ATTEMPTED TO STEAL THE ISOTOPE GENOME ACCELERATOR, WHICH IS CURRENTLY ON LOAN TO EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY. WHO HIRED YOU TO DO THIS?
WHO--I'M SORRY, THIS IS JUST...REALLY DISHEARTENING.
YEAH-- WHERE'S S.H.I.E.L.D.?
S.H.I.E.L.D. NO LONGER EXISTS--
WHICH IS JUST AN ABSOLUTE TRAVESTY, AND WE SAY THAT AS PROUD ALUMNI. I MEAN LOOK AT THIS--NOW WE'RE BEING INTERVIEWED BY GUYS IN SUITS!
WHAT-- WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY SUIT?
EVERYBODY KNOWS REAL SECRET AGENTS WEAR BRIGHT BLUE AND LEOTARDS! IT HELPS THEM WITH THEIR CLANDESTINE SPY WORK!
DON'T EVEN BOTHER, TASKY. NO WAY THIS GUY WILL GET IT. THAT'S WHY IT'S NOT "NICK FURY, AGENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY METAHUMAN AND WHATEVER DIVISION."
YEAH, ONLY WAY THIS GUY WEARS AN EYE PATCH IS IF HE GETS LASIK.
IF YOU TWO ARE DONE--
YOU KNOW WHAT? I BELIEVE WE ARE.
YOU'RE RIGHT, ERIC. I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE.
LEAVE? HOW EXACTLY DO YOU PLAN TO--

OLD S.H.I.E.L.D. TIP-- NEVER INTERROGATE THE SUPER VILLAIN IN A ROOM WITH AN EXTERIOR WALL. OH, AND BY THE WAY, POINDEXTER--
--WE WEREN'T AFTER NO DAMN GENOME ACCELERATOR. THAT WASN'T THE JOB.
GUY THAT HIRED US--
"--HE PLAYS A *DIFFERENT* KIND OF GAME."
PLEASE, PLEASE--I WAS JUST LOOKING FOR A LITTLE *ADVENTURE,* YOU KNOW? SOMETHING TO BRAG ABOUT TO THE GUYS BACK AT THE FIRM. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW IT IS IN THE FINANCE SECTOR. VERY COMPETITIVE.
AH, YES, THE STRUGGLE TO SURVIVE AMIDST PREDATORS OF ALL KINDS-- I UNDERSTAND IT BETTER THAN YOU CAN POSSIBLY IMAGINE. AFTER ALL--

--I AM A HUNTER.
NEXT: KRAVEN IS COMING!

Hey there, Web-Heads, and welcome to the first letter column for our new volume of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. We've been flooded with mail over the last few months, so let's waste no time in getting to your letters. Before we dive into the mailbag for the new issues, let's take one last look at the previous volume of ASM!

Dear Amazing Spider-Mail, and Dan Slott in particular:
I was genuinely touched by Dan Slott's final issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. While "Go Down Swinging" was filled with the stakes and status quo shakes one would hope for from a grand finale, this was a coda on what is wonderful about a friendly neighborhood super hero. Looking back on the run as a whole now, it's easy to see how high the highs were, with new classics like SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN and SPIDER-VERSE. Marcos Martin always seems to bring out the depth and poetry in Mr. Slott, and this issue was no different. Peter's mission statement that no one die seemed like foolish hubris at the time, but even though death is inescapable, here we still get to see the difference made by every single life he saves.

What really made me tear up, though, is that this issue sings the praises of an uncle. There's not a lot of fiction that really highlights aunts and uncles. I have two 9-year-old nieces (Hannah and Harper) and a 3-year-old nephew (Gabe) to whom I am godfather. It's the most important role I have in life. If anything were to happen to their parents, they know they'd have me. I've found myself consumed for years by my work as a nonprofit attorney representing foster youth, and so for whatever reason, having my own kids hasn't happened for me. But it's never mattered, because I am so fulfilled by my relationship with those three kids. I remember running to the hospital when the girls were born. Talking them through their problems, highlighting the importance of having compassion for people around us. I go to their plays, have fun at the holidays. It's all here. I'd like to think I'd trip that burglar, too. Uncle Ben in SPIDER-MAN taught me how important it is that we set an example for the next generation. I'm hoping I'll never need to die to do that.

On a plane flying to my family farm in Illinois recently, Harper looked over my shoulder while I was rereading "Dying Wish" and asked me to explain who Uncle Ben was. I did so, and she said, "That's just like you and us! You're teaching us to be good people!" It was all I could hope for. They set aside their own books and read my issues of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN the whole trip. Thank you for your run, Mr. Slott. And thank you for this issue I can hand my godkids to remind them I'll always be there for them. :)

Take care,
Ben Ebert (A.K.A. "Uncle Ben")

P.S. Many thanks to Stephen Wacker, who doesn't get enough credit for the high points of this era of Spider-Man.

Trust me, Steve takes PLENTY of credit. You should read his essay, "The Wacker Era of Spider-Man," if you've got fourteen hours of free time. Uncle Ben, your letter is incredible and your nieces and nephew sound like lucky kids to have someone like you. It is pretty rare in fiction to have non-evil uncles, that's for sure. We here at Marvel totally agree with you about Dan and Marcos' ASM #801. What a fitting end to such a great run. Inside scoop--Dan convinced Marcos to come back for the issue and wrote the script about a year early to ensure that Marcos could fit it into his busy schedule. And the effort showed in that instant-classic Spidey tale. Speaking of instant classics, let's move into discussion of this new run...

I'm just gonna start off and say that Nick Spencer is my favorite writer. *The Fix*. SUPERIOR FOES. ANT-MAN. CAPTAIN AMERICA. *Morning Glories*. This dude has a solid repertoire of stories and the news of him taking over AMAZING SPIDER-MAN just melted me.

And Ryan Ottley... I love *Invincible* so much that I feel like I have a bond with Ryan without ever having met him or spoken to him. His art is phenomenal. I love him so much.

All this coalesces into a fantastic first issue. Nick bringing his on-point humor and Ryan beautifully crafting this world and set of characters has me immensely excited for this run. I won't name names of course, but I've felt that a few writers in this business come onto a new title and don't do much in their first issue to make it known they have a story to tell. I don't feel obligated to read the next issue. The way that Nick uses Dan Slott's run and weaves it into this story means so much to me because I really like Dan's run and I feel his presence in this issue despite his having left the book. Nick has a story to tell. It may be "back to basics," but it's built on the backs of other incredible runs and feels like a continuation.

The news of this book being biweekly has me excited since I'm already on board, but I hope Ryan gets to draw as much of this book as possible. Keep it up, guys. I'm so excited for you.

Hussein
Toronto, ON

Nick and Ryan (with Cliff, Laura, and Joe, of course) definitely walked a very high tightrope with the incredible first issue, and we're glad you enjoyed it, Hussein. Don't worry, Ryan will be back soon, and in the meantime, Humberto Ramos is jumping on Team ASM for a while and you are in for a TREAT. Nick cooked up a few awesome stories for Humberto's return and you're going to love it.

Spidey-Folks!
"Something is missing." Ain't that the truth! Spencer acknowledges it and gives the Spidey-fans what we have been wanting for for a decade now!!!

THANK YOU!!! OMG, THANK YOU!!! The whole substance of this issue is pitch-perfect and Spencer delivers what I like to call a GRAND SLAM! All the key elements of Spider-Man are there. Accepting responsibility, the guilt of not accepting that responsibility! The humor. The action. The supporting cast. More importantly...MARY JANE!!! YES! The narration of Peter saying, "This is OUR story" had me doing the Carlton dance! I LOVE the fact that Peter NEEDS her to actually BE Spider-Man. As a longtime Spider-Man fan who grew up in the '80s I've always known that!

It's so good to actually see this issue, and Mysterio is my favorite Spidey-villain! The lizard as his teacher?! WHAT THE?! VERY GOOD SOLID ISSUE!!! Gets an A in my grading scale, and I hope Spencer and Ottley stay on here for a very long time at this pace. This is a great start to greater stories, I'm sure! Oh man...I love Peter and Mary Jane back together like this... Now I buy RENEW YOUR VOWS and AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! You are giving us what we want!!! THANK YOU AND KEEP IT UP!!!

Sincerely!
Peter Norbot, A.K.A. "The Chi-Town Spidey"

So glad you're liking the story, Peter. MJ being back has been such a treat (especially with Ryan's beautiful rendition of her), and wait until you read what Nick's got in store for her and Pete. And maybe Spidey will try swinging around the Windy City!

Dear Spider-Office / Probably Nick Lowe,
Really surprised by AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #1 (#802)! Spencer and Ottley do a fantastic job of representing Peter Parker, and I am interested to see where Spencer is taking certain relationships, particularly: Peter's relationship to Curt Connors and the Kingpin. But I guess the real reason I'm "calling" is to ask a question.

Peter's biggest mistake in life (arguably) is letting the burglar that would murder his uncle escape. It's even brought up in the last issue that Peter often fails not by doing the wrong thing, but by failing to do what is right. So, by living with Boomerang and not apprehending him on the spot, is Peter, once again, failing to do what is right? After all, he does know who Myers is.

Sincerely,
Carlos Escobosa

Thanks for writing, Carlos. I don't know what you're talking about. There's no way rooming with Boomerang is going to go badly for Pete and Randy. I foresee at least a hundred issues of roommate bliss and there's no way it's going to blow up in Peter's face next issue.

Howdy, team! :)
As someone who doesn't have the paycheck to follow all of the comics I'd like, I have started to neglect the Marvel books in recent years. That said, I have never stopped loving Spider-Man and have tried to keep tabs on the big events like SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN and SPIDER-ISLAND. Don't get me wrong, I loved reading those stories, but WOW at the direction this new series is going in!

Mary Jane was always meant for Peter and Nick Spencer WOULD be the author to bring them back together. Seeing that final panel of the two together and then realizing the story is called "Back to Basics" solidified that this book was made for people like me who are itching to get back into Spider-Man, and I'm looking forward to the direction this book is headed in.

Though, to be honest, as a huge SUPERIOR FOES fan...I was going to keep picking this up anyway to check in on my boy, Boomerang.

Thanks for reading my email!
Joshua

Welcome back, Joshua. Bringing MJ back was one of Nick's big ideas for this run of ASM and since Nick's well-known for always letting characters be happy, I'm sure Peter and MJ will have a very peaceful and easy

relationship from here on out! Wait a second... [quickly re-reads Nick Spencer's body of work] ...uh-oh.

Dear Nick,
Uh-oh... Full disclosure, I didn't plan to buy the new version of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN beyond the first issue. My budget is limited and I can only buy so many books per month. Chip Zdarsky has been tearing it up in SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN, so I figured I'd keep up with that for my friendly neighborhood wall-crawler fix.

Then I read ASM #1... Wow! Nick Spencer was masterful in weaving a tale that entertained, caught up new readers with major events that have recently occurred in Spidey's life, and set up a whole slew of storylines that are going to make our hero's life VERY interesting... I don't envy Peter Parker very much at all!

Mysterio is one of my favorite Spidey-villains, so I was pleasantly surprised by his appearance... I even felt a little sorry for the lousy creep... Can't wait to see what fate has in store for him... I envy him even LESS than Peter!

Ryan Ottley, Cliff Rathburn, and Laura Martin combined provided fantastic renderings of Spidey, Mystie...heck, EVERYBODY! I hope the twice-a-month schedule doesn't end up being a major hindrance to the art team... I want them to stay together for a long, long time.

So...a couple things--Boomerang as Pete's roommate? Genius!

The Kingpin trying to discredit web-head with his fellow heroes? Dubious... I doubt the other vigilantes would be fooled by this ruse.

Accusations of plagiarism against Petey? Inspired! This can open up a plethora of storylines for our web-slinger as he fights to restore his reputation.

It seems like you have lots in store for the Amazing one, but a few things I'd like to see in upcoming issues are: a partner for Spidey to team with for a while--I miss MARVEL TEAM-UP--so , I'd like our red-and-blue hero to interact with many heroes from the MU. I was thinking Black Cat, but everybody'll probably say, "Aw! You're copying off the current Batman story arc!" (I don't agree.) As an alternative, how about Spider-Woman, Silver Sable, the Shroud, or Blonde Phantom? (I am fascinated by the Golden Age Timely characters.) THAT would be interesting!
For bad guys...I hope Kraven the Hunter, the Prowler, Man-Wolf, Morbius, the Chameleon...and the Black Knight (?!) are in the pipeline.

'Til Nick Lowe feels low...MAKE MINE MARVEL!

Jon Weber
Stratford, NJ

You'll get no spoilers on who's coming from me, Jon. And it's easy not to feel low when Spidey's riding so high. Thanks for mentioning Chip Zdarsky and Co.'s PETER PARKER: THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN run. Chris Bachalo joined Chip for issues #308 and #309 for possibly the best Spidey/Sandman story EVER.

Hey, gang, it's me again,
I just finished up my pull list for this week, so let's get into it.

RENEW YOUR VOWS #21. Loving this run so much. The only thing that I enjoy more than Peter and MJ being together is them being parents together, and Annie herself is a joy. I really hope she and Mayday meet one another in the upcoming SPIDER-GEDDON, and I really hope neither of them is killed off.

SPIDER-MAN/DEADPOOL #35. I KNEW Hellcow was the traitor, I knew it! I had a bet running with a friend of mine over this, and I collected my dollar the very next day after reading this issue. It seems like Robbie Thompson is having a blast writing this title. I hope to see it get to 50 issues at the bare minimum.

Okay, now the big one, ASM #802, ohhhhhh baby, THIS is what I've been waiting for ever since "One More Day," this is the first time since then that I've had AMAZING on my pull list for something other than crossovers with VENOM. I'm really hoping that all of what's teased in that issue isn't just a ruse. Peter and MJ are the paramount comics couple to me, and many others I assume, and that issue was a sudden blast of light and warmth for me. I eagerly await next month's issue, and I'm really hoping that Overdrive gets to be the hero he always wanted to be.

Thanks again,
Jaremy "The Jerm" Bill

Jerm! Thanks for reading so many of our Spider-Offerings! I'm certainly biased, but I think Spider-Fans have never had it quite this good. I think you're really going to love our OVERDRIVE solo series. ;)

I've been reading and collecting Marvel comics since 1959! I was thrilled when you went back to the correct issue numbering! Then you went and started all over with another issue #1 on all of your top sellers. You guys are a bunch of idiots! This doesn't increase sales! You used to be the House of Ideas--not anymore. You're just the House of the Same Old Ideas.

Joe Armiger
(Fit to Print--I dare you!)

You dare DARE us, Joe? Well, we followed your dare and printed your letter, so I dare YOU to keep reading. We don't have space to argue over every #1, but I feel that this #1 is quite fitting given the new creative team, new story, and new ERA. But you also get the Legacy number on every issue (like this issue's LGY #806). I personally love the addition of the Legacy number and think it's a great way to serve both longtime readers and not scare off new readers.

Dear Spider-Man Team,
I just finished reading issue #3 of the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. These are great stories. I'm definitely hooked on these issues. I've been reading Spider-Man comics that date back from the '60s. Yeah, I'm old. Anyway these new issues take me back. Keep up the good work.

Always a fan,
Joe

Is this the same Joe? Glad to have you for three issues at least, if it is. If it isn't, HI, JOE! Glad you're digging the new launch!

Hey, guys,
This is my first time speaking out to the...Spider-line? Sure, let's go with that. Anyway, I just finished issue #1 and I gotta say I'm very pleased with the direction you're taking the web-head. I've been a fan of Spidey for most of my life, and to finally see him getting "back to basics" is surprisingly refreshing. I've always supported keeping things fresh and different, but with Spider-Man, I find he's gone on such a journey these past years that it's about time he got back to his roots, especially with MJ.

Speaking of love interests, I'll just diverge for a moment and say that it's with great honor that in a few months' time I'll be marrying the love of my life, who also shares my love for comics, and I've attached a picture of us to show just how much.

Keep up the great work, team!
Tori

Tori! What a great pic! Congrats on the engagement and impending marriage! Please update us with pics from the wedding. I assume the Green Goblin will be escorting you down the aisle on a glider?

Thanks for reading, everybody. I hope you enjoyed this first arc as much as we did. Join us in two weeks for ASM #6 and a very Boomerang-centric two-issue story. There are some great surprises waiting for you!!! We also hope you're reading other Spidey-Office offerings. We work really hard to give you the best stories we can. You've got a doozy coming up with SPIDER-GEDDON! It's a sequel to 2014's SPIDER-VERSE and it's chock-full of surprises, so don't miss it. You can start prepping with the EDGE OF SPIDER-GEDDON prelude series that's on shelves right now! Anyway, we'll see you all back here in two weeks. In the meantime, do us a favor and help out one stranger between now and ASM #6. Write in with your good deed and we may just print it in the next ASM letter column!

Keep Swingin'!
Nick Lowe
Editor

NEXT:
Issue #6

Let us know how we're doing! Drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!
Be sure to mark it "Okay to print"!

AN OROBOROS
RELEASE - DCP